



*Serving the Iowa Legislature*

# IOWA LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR AND BRIEFING

November 23, 2011

2011 Interim No. 8

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## November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Wednesday, November 30, 2011

### **Inmate Geriatric and Psychiatric Patients Study Committee**

10:00 a.m., Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

### **Administrative Rules Review Committee**

9:30 a.m., Room 116, Statehouse

### **Sue Lerdal, LSA Fiscal Services Division, Retirement Reception**

4:30-6:30 p.m., Noodle Zoo, 601 E. Locust St., Des Moines

Thursday, December 15, 2011

### **Revenue Estimating Conference**

1:00 p.m., Room 116, Statehouse

Monday, December 19, 2011—Rescheduled from December 15, 2011

### **Mental Health and Disability Services Study Committee**

10:00 a.m., Second Floor, Former Library, Ola Babcock Miller Building

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

### **Fiscal Committee of the Legislative Council**

1:00 p.m., Room 116, Statehouse

## December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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*Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing* is published by the Legal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency (LSA). For additional information, contact: LSA at (515) 281-3566.

# AGENDAS

## INFORMATION REGARDING SCHEDULED MEETINGS

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### **Inmate Geriatric and Psychiatric Patients Study Committee**

Co-Chairperson: Senator Tom Hancock

Co-Chairperson: Representative Gary Worthan

Location: Room 103, Supreme Court Chamber

Date & Time: Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Contact Persons: Joe McEniry, Legal Services, (515) 281-3189; Rachele Hjelmaas, Legal Services, (515) 281-8127.

Agenda: Review information from executive branch agencies developed pursuant to 2011 Iowa Acts, S.F. 510, and discuss next steps.

Internet Page: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?CID=542>

### **Administrative Rules Review Committee**

Chairperson: Senator Wally Horn

Vice Chairperson: Representative Dawn Pettengill

Location: Room 116, Statehouse

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 13, 2011, 9:30 a.m.

Contact Persons: Joe Royce, LSA Counsel, (515) 281-3084; Jack Ewing, LSA Counsel, (515) 281-6048.

Agenda: Published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/BulletinSupplement/bulletinListing.aspx>

### **Mental Health and Disability Services Study Committee**

Co-Chairperson: Senator Jack Hatch

Co-Chairperson: Representative Renee Schulte

Location: Second Floor, Former Library, Ola Babcock Miller Building

Date & Time: Monday, December 19, 2011, 10:00 a.m.—Rescheduled from December 15, 2011.

Contact Persons: John Pollak, Legal Services, (515) 281-3818; Patty Funaro, Legal Services, (515) 281-3040; Rachele Hjelmaas, Legal Services, (515) 281-8127.

Agenda: Discuss next steps.

Internet Page: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=541>

### **Fiscal Committee of the Legislative Council**

Co-Chairperson: Senator Robert E. Dvorsky

Co-Chairperson: Representative Scott Raecker

Location: Room 116, Statehouse

Date & Time: Tuesday, December 20, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

Contact Persons: Deb Kozel, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6767; Dave Reynolds, Fiscal Services, (515) 281-6934; Tim McDermott, Legal Services, (515) 281-8090; John Pollak, Legal Services, (515) 281-3818.

Agenda: To be announced.

Internet Page: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=46>

### LEGISLATIVE TAX EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE

November 16, 2011

**Co-Chairperson:** Senator Joe Bolkcom

**Co-Chairperson:** Representative Tom Sands

**Overview.** In 2010, Iowa Acts, Ch. 1138 (S.F. 2380), established the Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee under Iowa Code § 2.45(5). The Committee is required to conduct regular review of all tax credit, withholding credit, and revenue division programs. The Committee is permitted to review any tax expenditure at any time but is required to review specific tax expenditures during specified years. In 2011, the Committee is required to review the High Quality Jobs Program, the research activity tax credit, the franchise tax credits, and the earned income tax credit.

**Background on S.F. 2380.** Mr. Michael Duster, Legal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency (LSA), provided a summary of the legislation that established the Committee and detailed the duties and authority of the Committee contained in Iowa Code §2.48.

**State Contingent Liabilities Report.** Mr. Jeff Robinson, Fiscal Services Division, LSA, provided a summary of the Tax Credits Contingent Liabilities Report, which is produced for the benefit of the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC). The report includes information on actual tax credit redemptions and information necessary to make projections for future years. In the report, tax credits can be tracked by program awards, redemptions, and by fiscal year. Mr. Robinson provided information on awarded, automatic, capped, and uncapped tax credits, identified the largest tax credit programs, described the assumptions used in making the tax credit contingent liabilities projections, and provided both historical tax credit redemption data and future tax credit redemption projections.

**Report on the Maximum Aggregate Tax Credit Limit for Certain Economic Development Programs.** Mr. Tim Whipple, Economic Development Authority (EDA), provided a summary of the maximum aggregate tax credit cap enacted in 2009, including subsequent amendments to the amount of the maximum aggregate cap and the programs subject to the maximum aggregate cap. The current maximum aggregate cap is \$120 million and includes the High Quality Jobs Program, Enterprise Zone Program, Housing Enterprise Zone Program, Film Promotion Tax Credit Program, corporate research credit under the Enterprise Zone Program, assistive device credit, Brownfield Program, innovation fund credit, and community-based seed capital fund credit. Mr. Whipple also provided information on the maximum aggregate cap allocations for fiscal years 2010 through 2012.

**Searchable Tax Incentive Database Demonstration.** Ms. Vicky Clinkscales and Ms. Tina Hoffman, EDA, provided an interactive demonstration of EDA's searchable tax incentive database. The presenters detailed the search capabilities and limitations of the website and also conducted searches for the Committee to demonstrate the types of information provided for each tax incentive recipient. The database website can be found at:

<http://www.iowalifechanging.com/annualrpt/?cmd=default&rptyear=2010>

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).** Mr. Zhong Jin, Department of Revenue (DR), summarized historical information on the federal EITC and the Iowa EITC and the various qualifications for the EITC. The Iowa EITC is a refundable income tax credit primarily for individuals and families who have low to moderate earned income. The maximum amount of the tax credit is generally larger for those who have qualifying dependents. When the tax credit exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit. Mr. Jin also provided claim and claimant information related to the EITC, including the amount of such claims, size of claimant households, claimant income levels, claimant filing status, and claimant poverty level. He also described major reasons that claimants begin claiming the EITC and cease claiming the EITC.

**Franchise Tax Credit.** Iowa imposes a 5 percent franchise tax on financial institutions doing business in Iowa. The franchise tax credit is a credit that may be taken against either individual or corporate income taxes and is designed to prevent double taxation of certain bank income that is distributed to shareholders. The credit is equal to the smaller of Iowa tax liability on the pass-through bank income or the shareholder's share of franchise tax paid by the financial institution conducting business in Iowa. Ms. Angela Gullickson, DR, detailed the franchise tax credit claims by providing information on the claimant's income tax status, income tax level, and residence status. Ms. Gullickson also included historical information on the amount of the credit that is claimed per year.

**High Quality Jobs Program (HQJP).** Mr. Whipple provided a detailed report on the High Quality Jobs Program. The core eligibility requirements for the program include an engaged local partner (for projects larger than \$10 million), a prohibition on intrastate relocation, job creation/retention requirements, wage threshold and benefits requirements, sufficient fiscal return for the state, law-abiding business history, and an overall quality of the project. Mr. Whipple provided a description of the various types of awards available under the program. Mr. Whipple also discussed the administration and approval process for the program, provided specific project examples from the program, and summarized EDA's return on investment calculation.

**Research Activities Tax Credit.** Enacted in 1983, the research activities credit is 6.5 percent of Iowa's apportioned share

# BRIEFINGS

## INFORMATION REGARDING RECENT ACTIVITIES

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*(Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee continued from Page 3)*

of qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. Ms. Amy Rehder Harris, DR, provided a review of the federal and Iowa research tax credits, an overview of similar credits available in other states, and information on the amount and type of research being conducted in the state. The presentation also included an explanation of the timing such credits have on the state's revenue and an explanation of the credit's historical use. Ms. Harris also provided the results of a recently completed survey by the DR on the use of the credit and the activities of the taxpayers claiming the credit. The sample size of the survey was small, making it difficult to draw conclusions on the impact of research expenditures. The Committee was provided a hypothetical firm example to demonstrate how Iowa's research activity credit differs from research credits in other states.

**Committee Discussion.** The Committee discussed the presentations made during the meeting and discussed the need for further evaluation of each credit, particularly in light of the amount of credits currently being claimed under these programs. Committee members discussed the difficulty in evaluating each credit's efficacy and return on investment. The Committee discussed the possibility of holding a joint Ways and Means Standing Committee meeting during the 2012 Legislative Session to further evaluate the specific tax credits.

**LSA Contacts:** Michael Duster, Legal Services, (515) 281-4800; Michael Mertens, Legal Services, (515) 281-3444.

Internet Page: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=511>

### STATE FISH AND GAME PROTECTION FUND STUDY COMMITTEE

November 16, 2011

**Co-Chairperson:** Senator Dennis Black

**Co-Chairperson:** Representative Henry V. Rayhons

**Background.** The Legislative Council established an interim study committee pursuant to 2011 Iowa Acts, S.F. 509, to hold one meeting in order to review expenditures from the State Fish and Game Protection Fund (fund) by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**Overview.** The Committee elected Senator Black and Representative Rayhons Co-Chairpersons. Presentations were provided by the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**Presentation—LSA, Fiscal Services Division.** The Committee considered a presentation by Ms. Deb Kozel, LSA Senior Fiscal Analyst. She discussed the fund's revenue sources (e.g., hunting and fishing licenses, federal moneys, sales income, income tax refund donations, and interest) and expenditures (e.g., legislative appropriations), and the department's support of capital projects and contingencies. Ms. Kozel answered questions from Committee members relating to the use of moneys for capital projects and the use of the lake restoration funds to support dredging operations.

**Panel Presentation—DNR, Conservation and Recreation Division.** The Committee considered a panel presentation by division staff, including Mr. Chuck Corell, Division Administrator; Mr. Dale Garner, Wildlife Bureau Chief; Mr. Bob Garrison, Law Enforcement Bureau Chief; and Mr. Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief. Members of the panel discussed the operations of their respective bureaus.

Mr. Corell led the panel in discussing the fund's financial condition. The estimated total economic effect in this state from fish and wildlife recreation in 2006 was \$1.54 billion. The sources of fund revenue include hunting and fishing license fees, federal aid (including through the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 and the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950), fish and wildlife habitat fees, boat registration fees, all-terrain vehicle and snowmobile fees, miscellaneous fees, and the balance carry-forward from previous years, all equaling \$66,981,370. In fiscal year 2010-2011, expenditures were used to support wildlife (\$15,063,317), enforcement (\$12,134,386), fisheries (\$10,672,470), capital projects (\$10,392,096), and administration (\$1,059,067), with a balance carry-forward (\$17,362,884). In FY 2010-2011, DNR paid property taxes to counties (\$755,885), but not all those moneys were paid from the fund. In Iowa, public land equals 780,000 acres with DNR holding 350,000 acres. According to Mr. Corell, by FY 2015-2016, the fund is expected to have a deficit of \$301,506.

**Committee Questions and Comments.** The Committee members asked a number of questions and also made comments. Specifically, several Committee members raised questions regarding the use of constitutionally protected fees. Senator Dearden asked about the constitutionality of using licensing fees to support the Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH) program. Senator Black asked about the constitutionality of using licensing fees to support water trail improvement. Senator Black also discussed the issue of increasing license fees to preserve the fund. Representative Rayhons discussed the decline in the state's pheasant population, the acquisition of land by DNR, and the issuance of nonresident deer hunting licenses. Representative Curtis Hanson asked about the prevalence of deer in this state, and efforts to reduce the doe population. Representative Jeff Smith discussed possible causes for the decline in pheasants and DNR's control of invasive aquatic species which pose a threat to Iowa's lakes.

**Record of Testimony.** The Committee received and filed the testimony provided to provide a record for further legislative consideration.

*(State Fish and Game Protection Fund Study Committee continued from Page 4)*

LSA Contacts: Doug Adkisson, Legal Services, (515) 281-3884; Ann Ver Heul, Legal Services, (515) 281-3837; Jack Ewing, Legal Services, (515) 281-6048.

Internet Page: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=543>

### STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

November 16, 2011

**Chairperson:** Senator Jeff Danielson

**Vice Chairperson:** Representative Peter Cownie

**Charge.** The Committee is required to meet, as directed by the Legislative Council, every two years to review state government organization and efficiency options and receive state government efficiency suggestions offered by the public and public employees. The first report is due January 1, 2013.

**Background.** The Committee was established in 2010 Iowa Acts, Ch. 1031, S.F. 2088, the State Government Reorganization and Efficiency Act, enacted during the 2010 Legislative Session. The Act reflected recommendations advanced by the State Government Reorganization Commission which met during the 2009 Legislative Interim. The primary focus of the meeting concerned updates from representatives of impacted agencies regarding progress in implementing S.F. 2088 and related legislation and recommendations for additional efficiency improvements.

**Fiscal Overview.** Ms. Mary Shipman, Editor/Publications Coordinator, Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency (LSA), provided a fiscal impact summary of S.F. 2088. Ms. Shipman distributed charts detailing expenditure and revenue changes for FY 2010-2011 and FY 2011-2012 anticipated to result from key provisions contained in the legislation, and updated figures reflecting actual results to the extent available. Combined expenditure reductions and revenue increases were originally estimated to result in approximately \$72.2 million General Fund net savings for FY 2010-2011 and approximately \$34.7 million for FY 2011-2012. Updated figures were provided totaling approximately \$56.3 million and \$22.8 million respectively, as were original estimates and updates for non-general fund expenditure reductions and revenue increases.

**Cooperative Purchasing.** Ms. Debbie O'Leary, Administrator, Procurement Services, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) General Services Enterprise, summarized consolidated procurement efforts undertaken by the department. Ms. O'Leary indicated that DAS procures goods and some services for 41 state agencies and 16,000 employees, and maintains over 500 contracts covering a wide range of products utilized by state government. She provided an overview of cooperative procurement efforts involving other states, the Department of Transportation (DOT), in conjunction with the State Board of Regents, and the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy, providing examples under each of these categories and noting discounted prices obtained. Ms. O'Leary stated that approximately \$3.8 million in cost savings or cost avoidance has been realized through consolidated procurement efforts for the time period spanning from January 1, 2011, through November 1, 2011.

**Personnel.** Mr. Jeff Panknen, Chief Operating Officer, DAS Human Resources Enterprise, addressed span of control requirements contained in S.F. 2088. Mr. Panknen stated that improvements in supervisory ratios have been made by some agencies, primarily in the form of not filling vacant positions, illustrated by a series of charts comparing agency span of control ratios for January 2010, January 2011, and October 2011. He cited as factors complicating compliance with the statutory requirements fluctuating numbers of nonsupervisory positions and inherent differences between agencies in staffing and supervision needs. Mr. Panknen also distributed a chart depicting 59 rehired employees from FY 2008-2009 through the present time following either regular employment retirement or retirement pursuant to an incentive program.

**Information Technology.** Mr. Mike Carroll, Director, DAS, accompanied by Ms. Lorrie Tritch, Chief Operating Officer, DAS Information Technology Enterprise, presented information regarding information technology consolidation efforts undertaken by the department in conjunction with the Department of Management (DOM). Mr. Carroll acknowledged that the position of Chief Information Officer created in S.F. 2088 has not been appointed, but stated that efforts are underway and that a consolidation approach and structure is being implemented which is compatible with legislative intent.

Ms. Tritch stated that initial IT consolidation efforts have focused on e-mail consolidation efforts and agencies with immediate IT requirements or needs. She provided updates regarding IT infrastructure consolidations involving the Department of Inspections and Appeals, the Iowa Division of Credit Unions, and the Iowa Utilities Board within the Department of Commerce, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Public Health, the Iowa Department on Aging, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Ms. Tritch also discussed e-mail consolidation efforts among participating agencies and e-mail and related server decommissioning, providing resulting actual and estimated financial savings and cost-avoidance figures, and DAS IT coordination with the judicial and legislative branches, the State Board of Regents, and other states.

**Real Estate and Lease Management.** Ms. Barbara Bendon, Administrator, Lease and Space Management Services,



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*(State Government Efficiency Review Committee continued from Page 5)*

DAS General Services Enterprise, addressed requirements contained in S.F. 2088 relating to the conducting of a real estate audit of surplus and unused state properties, a lease audit and statewide lease renegotiations, and the sale and leaseback of state office building assets. Ms. Bendon indicated that DAS periodically contacts specified agency property managers regarding whether any real property has been identified as surplus, and that to date no agency has notified DAS of real property not in use or which should be sold. Ms. Bendon noted that DAS lacks statutory authority to sell surplus real property outside parameters specified in the legislation. Ms. Bendon summarized efforts to renegotiate all leases for office space and provided a spreadsheet identifying a resulting savings in excess of \$4 million during the next few fiscal years. She stated that a cost/benefit analysis regarding the sale and leaseback of real property conducted by DAS resulted in the determination that risks and the potential for long-term debt appear to outweigh the benefits of one-time income accruing to the General Fund.

**State Energy Efficiency Efforts and Recommendations.** Ms. Jennifer Moehlmann, Manager, Vertical Infrastructure Program, DAS General Services Enterprise, and Ms. Monica Stone, Energy Program Manager, DAS General Services Enterprise, discussed state efforts to achieve energy efficiency. Ms. Moehlmann indicated that since FY 2008, DAS has decreased overall energy consumption by 17 percent, spending nearly \$800,000 less on utilities in FY 2011 than in FY 2008. Of the \$800,000 in savings, approximately \$300,000 can be attributed to lower natural gas prices. She outlined an energy management process consisting of reviewing energy bills and tariffs, establishing temperature and lighting policies, implementing energy efficiency upgrades, and measuring results.

Energy management efforts undertaken by DAS dating back to 1976 were provided, energy audits and additional energy efficiency enhancements being implemented by the department were described, and future opportunities for achieving energy efficiency were outlined. Ms. Moehlmann indicated that a lack of time and sufficient capital were barriers to energy management endeavors, and that successful implementation depended on identification of an energy champion, involving building engineers and custodians, and soliciting ideas from all employees. Ms. Stone discussed the operation of the Iowa Energy Bank. Key goals involve attracting and deploying capital to finance energy improvements and identifying and implementing cost-effective energy projects resulting in saving taxpayer dollars. She stated that the program provides funding from a \$12.5 million revolving loan fund to public facilities to facilitate investment in energy projects, involving projects that are anticipated to pay for themselves with the energy savings derived with no upfront capital or appropriations required, with a general rule of thumb that most buildings can reduce energy costs by at least 15 percent.

**Convenience Fee Study Results.** Mr. Mike Uhrin, Administrator, Application and E-Government Services, DAS Information Technology Enterprise, summarized the results of a convenience or value-added service fee elimination study mandated by S.F. 2088. Such fees reflect the costs an agency incurs in providing online services. Mr. Uhrin indicated that alternatives to the provision of the fees were identified, consisting of an annual appropriation to cover the costs, or incorporation of the costs within the online service price either by increasing the price directly or by charging an additional amount for not using online services. The effect of an annual appropriation would be to shift the cost from individual taxpayers to all state citizens. Increasing the price would achieve the opposite result, with the variation involving an additional amount if online services are not utilized encouraging citizens to utilize the most cost-effective means of conducting business with the state.

**Medication Therapy Management.** Mr. Ed Holland, Administrator, Risk and Benefits Management, DAS Human Resources Enterprise, provided information regarding the establishment and operation of the Medication Therapy Management Program, which involves the promotion of safe and effective use of medications and the achievement of targeted outcomes from medication therapy through a collaborative effort between a pharmacist, a patient or caregiver, and health professionals. Mr. Holland summarized the request for proposals (RFP) process, characterizing the process as rushed based upon timeframes contained in enabling legislation. He summarized program savings results as submitted by the selected vendor, and stated that if the program were offered again in the future, it would be preferable to allocate more time for the RFP process and to be less prescriptive regarding the plan or methodology to be contracted for. Committee discussion included the expression of disappointment regarding the Governor's vetoing of the extension of the program.

**State Employee Healthcare.** Mr. Holland also addressed the Committee regarding administration of state employee health care. He distributed a document identifying logistical and administrative issues associated with the pooling of smaller public entities and school districts with the state's health insurance plan. The issues included adverse selection within the state's plan; funding, staffing and timeline considerations; and the impact of pooling on the role performed by DAS in administering the state's health insurance program. Mr. Holland additionally discussed the current contract with Wellmark regarding state employee health care and the timeline and process by which the contract was entered into,

# BRIEFINGS

## INFORMATION REGARDING RECENT ACTIVITIES

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*(State Government Efficiency Review Committee continued from Page 6)*

indicating that selection is made pursuant to a recommendation from DAS to the Executive Council.

**Electronic Records Creation and Storage.** Ms. Mary Cownie, Director, Department of Cultural Affairs, discussed issues and challenges faced by the department regarding records storage requirements. Ms. Cownie detailed the number of boxes of records currently stored at specified locations, noted the lack of available storage space, and estimated the initial cost involved in scanning those records to digital format at approximately \$19 million, and 43 cents per year per digitalized box thereafter. By contrast, it costs \$4.75 per year to physically store a nondigitalized box, but the front-end cost of digitalization is avoided. She indicated that the study conducted in 2010 determined that a process should be developed for determining which records should be maintained in physical form and which should be digitized and that the department lacks the necessary staff to work with agencies to determine how long a record should be retained.

**Department of Management.** Mr. David Roederer, Director, Department of Management, discussed several aspects of S.F. 2088 which fell within the department's purview. Mr. Roederer provided an update regarding LEAN events, indicating that the department is refocusing these events on high-impact, significant-outcome endeavors. He stated that 117 LEAN events were conducted during the period spanning from 2003-2009, and provided a breakdown of agency participation.

Mr. Roederer also provided workforce reduction and resulting savings figures stemming from implementation of the State Employee Early Retirement Incentive Program established in 2010 Iowa Acts, Ch. 1005, S.F. 2062, enacted during the 2010 Legislative Session, and provided retiree rehire statistics. Additionally, Mr. Roederer discussed DOM efforts to establish a searchable database designed to provide budgetary and other information in a readily accessible and understandable format. Committee discussion included the desirability of establishing a single data source regarding retiree rehiring, why span of control requirements have not been adhered to, and progress being made on appointing the Chief Information Officer position.

**State Board of Regents Efficiency Efforts.** Ms. Nancy Brooks, Director of Purchasing, Iowa State University, discussed State Board of Regents cost and purchasing efficiency efforts. Ms. Brooks provided a historical review of regents and state cooperative purchasing endeavors, identified cooperative service contracts and operational efficiency efforts, and noted cooperative undertakings anticipated for the future.

Mr. Steve Fleagle, Associate Vice-President and Chief Information Officer, University of Iowa, discussed IT efficiency efforts at the regents institutions. Mr. Fleagle emphasized that IT at the university level encompasses most day-to-day campus activities in some form and is far broader than e-mail, and that accordingly, a wide variety of IT systems need to be integrated with each other and with the activity they support. He listed regents and state collaborative IT activities, including conducting information technology security meetings, entering into a joint agreement for the purchasing and sharing of Internet connectivity, and serving as IT consultants to state IT leaders. Mr. Fleagle noted, however, that these collaborations do not necessarily yield cost savings due to differences between educational and government pricing. He described IT efficiency endeavors undertaken by regents institutions, and stated that peer comparisons are positive in the area of efficient IT operations.

**Committee Discussion.** The Committee approved motions to reactivate a public input web page soliciting ideas for improving state government operation, to be operational until the start of the 2012 Legislative Session. The Committee additionally voted to forward efficiency recommendations for potential inclusion in reorganization legislation to be introduced during the 2012 Legislative Session to LSA staff for inclusion in the Committee's Final Report.

**LSA Contacts:** Richard Nelson, Legal Services Division, (515) 242-5822; Andrew Ward, Legal Services Division, (515) 725-2251.

Internet Page: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=540>